

- If you die in your sleep, God took your life.
- If you die on a battlefield at the hands of a soldier whom God sent to kill you, God took your life
- God is no more guilty of a crime when he takes your life in your bed than when He employs the services of a soldier.
- So when Israel waged war in Canaan according to God's direction, they were acting lawfully (not murdering) because the Giver and Taker of life had directed their actions.

Question: What does the Bible say about war?

Answer:

- a. Many people make the mistake of reading the Bible says in Exodus 20:13 "You shall not kill," and then seek to apply this command to war.
- b. Hebrew word literally *means* "the intentional, premeditated killing of another person with malice; murder."
- c. God often ordered the Israelites to go to war with other nations...1 Sam.15:3 Josh.4:13
- d. God ordered the death penalty for numerous crimes...Ex.21:12,15;22:19; Lev. 20:11
- e. So God is not against killing in all circumstances...but only murder.
- f. War is never a good thing, but sometimes it is a necessary thing.
 - In a world filled with sinful people (Romans 3:10-18) war is inevitable.
 - Sometimes the only way to keep sinful people from doing great harm to the innocent is by going to war.
 - In the Old Testament, God ordered the Israelites to "take vengeance on the Midianites for the Israelites (Numbers 31:2)
 - Deuteronomy 20:16-17 declares, "*Destroy them as the Lord your God Has commanded you*"
 - 1 Samuel 15:18...*Go and completely destroy those wicked people...*
 - Obviously God is not against all war.
 - Jesus is always in perfect agreement with the Father (John 10:30) so we cannot argue that war was only God's will in the OT.
 - God doesn't change... (Malachai 3:6; James 1:17)
 - Jesus 2nd coming will be exceedingly violent.
 - Revelation 19:11-21
 - It is an error to say that God never supports a war.
 - Jesus is not a Pacifist!
 - In a world filled with evil people, sometimes war is necessary to prevent even greater evil.
 - If Hitler had not been defeated in World War 2...how many more millions would have been killed?
 - If the American Civil War had not been fought...how much longer would African-Americans had have to suffer as Slaves?
 - War is a terrible thing...some wars are more "*just*" than others... but War is always a result of Sin...Romans 10:3-18
 - At the same time Ecclesiastes 3:8 declares...
 - In a world filled with sin, hatred, and evil...war is inevitable
 - Christians should not desire war...but neither are Christians to oppose the government that God has placed in authority over them.

Don't Avenge Yourself...

- Matthew 16:27
- Romans 12:19

Seeing Injustice ...and doing Nothing About it

- Proverbs 25:26
 - Most don't want to get involved
 - Believers...don't give way to the wicked or they will do worse things.
 - That becomes condoning evil acts.
- Psalms 82:4

Commandment #7... Vs.14 “*You shall not commit adultery.*”

1. Let's define the word “**adultery**” as it was commonly understood in Israel.
 - a. Adultery under the Law of Moses is... sexual intercourse when one or both partners are married.
 - Under Jewish law, to be betrothed was equal to marriage.
 - So sexual relations with someone betrothed to another was also adultery.
 - b. The purpose of the Law in Israel is *two-fold*...
 - First...the sanctity of marriage was to be honored and preserved.
 - Once a commitment has been made to one person in marriage, that commitment must be honored.
 - Do you think the Lord believed that marriage was important?
 - Consider that among the first ten laws, three commandments address the strength and sanctity of the family.
 - Honoring parents, honoring your spouse, and honoring other marriages.
 - Clearly, maintaining the health of the family was a priority for the Lord
 - Secondly, God has appointed Israel to a people called out from the world, and the people of Israel must protect the family lines God created.
 - If marriage were not sacred/set apart...then the bloodline of Israel would be at risk.
 - More importantly, the seed promise might be corrupted
 - c. God promised that through Abraham's seed would come the Messiah.
 - If the seed line was compromised by infidelity, then the promise couldn't be verified.
2. It's also important to note what adultery is not...
 - a. First, adultery is not a state of being
 - It is a sexual act.
 - The offense happens in that moment.
 - Afterward, the person might be labeled an adulterer in the same way that someone can be called a murderer because of a prior act of murder.
 - But they are not continuing in adultery unless the sexual act is repeated.
 - b. Secondly, sexual conduct outside marriage (fornication) is not the same offense.
 - Adultery was punishable by death under the Law.
 - But fornication was a different crime and carried a different penalty.

- In Exodus 22 we'll learn that the penalty restitution.
 - And the requirement to marry if her father permits
 - While the Law promoted the sanctity of marriage, the Law also made Provision for divorce. That provision is found in Deut. 24:1-4
 - The Law provided for a man to send his wife away with a certificate of divorce if he found some indecency in her.
 - With that certificate of divorce in hand, the woman had a chance to remarry.
 - Without such a certificate, a married woman could never convince another man to marry her.
 - Because that man would be concerned about violating the law against adultery and face a penalty of death.
- a. Notice also that the Law forbid a woman married a second time from returning to her first husband.
- The reason given is because she has been defiled
 - This is our first clue that God doesn't see a divorce as the clean break we may think it is.
- e. Later in Jeremiah, God draws a lesson from this Law in passing judgment on Israel. Jeremiah 3:1
- The Lord draws from the Law to make a spiritual point to unfaithful Israel.
 - The Lord called Himself a Husband to Israel, who He called His wife.
 - But the nation was unfaithful to the Lord, so the Lord gave the nation a certificate of divorce, spiritually speaking.
 - Then Israel entered into a new relationship with Baal worship and other idolatry.
- f. So the Lord determines to send the the ten northern tribes into exile
- And here Lord warns through the nation will call to the Lord and ask to return to Him, He won't listen.
 - The Lord asks if it would be right for a Husband to accept His wife back when she finally begs to return to Him after she has married herself to another?
 - The Law prohibited this possibility.
 - Until the Law has been fulfilled, these tribes have no possibility of returning to the Lord.
 - You can study more about how that happens in a Revelation study
3. Turning to the New Testament and the Law of Christ guiding believers, we see this commandment clearly continued and expanded.
- a. First... Jesus spoke these words concerning the matter of adultery Matt. 5:26-28
- Jesus broadens the law just as He has in previous commandments.
 - Just as the prohibition against unlawful killing was broadened to include hateful thoughts, now adultery was broadened to include even lustful desires. Jesus is not saying that lustful thoughts are adultery.
 - He's saying that they are the moral equivalent under God's law.
 - If you've never committed adultery but you have entertained lustful thoughts, you are no less guilty before God than the person who acted on their lust.

Our modern world is desperately trying to create lustful thoughts in your head.

- Advertisers seek your attention with sexy models.
- Entertainers and celebrities provoke lust for attention and profits.
- Young teens seek approval, acceptance and love by dressing provocatively.
- Websites, books, music and movies push the limits and throw away the limits to sell lust to an eager audience.
- Everywhere you look, the world is ready to provoke lust in your heart.
 - But the upward call of Christ demands that we wouldn't fall for that temptation any more easily than we might commit adultery.
 - Some of us may fall to both.
 - But most of us treat one very differently than the other, leaving us far more willing to entertain lust than adultery.
 - It ought not to be this way.
 - If that weren't challenging enough, Jesus goes even further in defining what is adultery.... **Mark 10:2-12**

a. Secondly... Jesus declares that when we dissolve a marriage through divorce and enter into new marriages, we also commit adultery.

- From God's point of view, a new marriage piles on top of the prior marriage.
- It doesn't replace the first marriage...they coexist
- And therefore, the sexual union that forms that marriage is adultery.
- Again, the new marriage begins with an act of adultery, but adultery is an act, not a state of being.
- The new marriage isn't a *continual* act of adultery, but it is *founded* on a *sinful basis*.

4. The Law of Christ raises the bar on the seventh commandment for every Christian

a. Save yourself for marriage.

- Once you marry, see that marriage the way the Lord sees it:
- You are married until death do you part.

b. Work on your marriage, making its preservation your highest goal.

- See it as your witness to the world of the relationship you enjoy in Christ.
- Protect it knowing that as you honor your spouse and your marriage, you reflect your faith.

b. Should one member of the marriage give up and leave or even file for a legal divorce, remember you still remain married in God's eyes.

- Remain single forevermore hoping the spouse reconsiders and returns.
- If one remarries, then they commit adultery on the other.

d. In summary, there is no going back on any marriage.

- If you have remarried, stay married.
- Adultery is an act, not a state of being.
- Just as the Law prevented men from taking back a twice married woman, so are we not to repeat our mistakes.

Commandment #8... Vs.15 “ You shall not steal”

Stealing is... to take away another man's property by force or fraud, without the knowledge, and against the will of the owner thereof.

Kinds of Thefts ...

1. Private theft...

- picking of pockets,
- shoplifting,
- burglary, or breaking into houses in the night and carrying off goods;
- credit card theft
- hacking into bank accounts and cleaning out the account
- scam theft

2. Public theft...

- robbing upon the highways
- bank robbery
- Embezzlement of funds
- Counterfeit money

3. Domestic theft...

- when husbands/wives take away their spouses money or goods, and conceal them, or dispose of them without their knowledge and will,
- children rob their parents,
- servants/employee's "borrow" their masters'/employers
- sex-trade theft...stealing of boys/girls and making slaves of them, selling them against their wills;
- circumventing the law in trade and commerce,
- unjust contracts,
- not making good and performing payments,
- detention of servants' wages,
- unlawful usury,
- unfaithfulness with respect to anything deposited in a man's hands,
- advising and encouraging thieves, and receiving from them:
- ([Proverbs 6:30](#) [Proverbs 6:31](#))

1. The very fact that God's law forbids taking another's property teaches us something about God's economic point of view
 - a. God is not a communist
 - He believes in private property ownership rights
 - A man can possess property & expect that he might never be denied access to it
 - c. As we'll study more later, the Law expands private property law considerably, establishing tort law for how private property crimes are to be adjudicated
 - If you deprive someone of something, you have an obligation to return it or compensate them for it
 - Our modern civil law is based on God's law.

How did Jesus carry over this law and expand it for the believer?

First... it is restated plainly, both in the Gospels and through the NT Epistles.

- Eph. 4:28

Secondly... the sin of stealing is also equated with our **hearts desire...**

- particularly greedy gain,
- fraud,
- dishonest business dealings,
- slothful dependence,
- the general love of money

For example, Jesus says: **Luke 12:15**

Paul says greed can...

- Colossians 3:5 - lead to idolatry
- 1Tim 3:8....denounces sordid gain

a. The purpose of the eighth commandment was to prohibit the active taking of something in another's possession.

It intended to put to an end any action intended to enrich ourselves in an unloving way at someone else's expense.

- Whether we trick someone into spending too much
- Or scheme in business or conduct shading business dealings
- Or misuse our employer's time or misrepresent our goods for sale, etc.

Remember, even forms of business that may be legal according to the nations laws can still violate the standards of the NT Law of Christ.

- the laws of our nation may permit some business practices that Jesus has taught are actually sinful acts of stealing.

In fact, just a greedy desire for possessions is itself a violation of this commandment in the NT Law of Christ

[1Tim. 6:7-11](#)

- How does greed qualify as a form of stealing?

b. Well, consider that the Lord is the owner of all that the earth contains

And scripture teaches that the Lord assigns to each according to His will

So that when we allow our greedy hearts to rule over us and drive us to seek after things the Lord has not assign for us, we are stealing from the Lord in a sense

- We are taking for ourselves something that the Lord, the owner of all things, has not given into our hands.

c. If you want the best possible perspective on this question, you should consult the man who knew better than anyone how it feels to seek after everything: Solomon

Read **Ecclesiastes 2**

It begins with Solomon saying

[Eccl. 2:3](#)

And ends this way....[Eccl. 2:26](#)

- For to a person who is good in His sight He has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, while to the sinner He has given the task of gathering and collecting so that he may give to one who is good in God's sight. This too is vanity and striving after wind.